

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122733
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-STADIS////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IS, US, EG

SUBJECT: YOUR RECENT TALK WITH SADAT

REF: CAIRO 12617

1. RE LAST SENTENCE, PARA. 4 REFTL, YOU MAY PASS WORD TO
SADAT HIS ASSUMPTION IS CORRECT THAT DAYAN, DURING HIS
WASHINGTON TALKS, EXPRESSED PREFERENCE TO PUT DECLARATION
OF PRINCIPLES ASIDE TEMPORARILY AND WORK INSTEAD ON TRYING
TO REACH AGREEMENT ON SPECIFICS OF A WEST BANK/GAZA PLAN.
HE ARGUED THAT IF PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON THESE SPECIFICS,
IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE THEN TO DISTILL OUT OF THEM A SET OF

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 122733

GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE TWO SIDES COULD AGREE. WE
TOLD DAYAN THAT WE HAD NO QUARREL WITH LOGIC OF THIS
APPROACH, BUT WE EMPHASIZED THAT OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH
SADAT UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DECLARATION OF
PRINCIPLES IN HIS EYES AS A FRAMEWORK FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS
AND THAT AGREEMENT ON A DECLARATION MUST REMAIN AS ULTIMATE
OBJECTIVE.

2. RE PARA. 6, YOU MAY PASS WORD TO SADAT THAT WE WILL BE HAPPY TO FOLLOW PROCEDURE HE SUGGESTS WITH RESPECT TO BRIEFINGS OF HUSSEIN AND SAUDIS. WE APPRECIATE SADAT'S OFFER TO GIVE US DETAILS OF APPROACHES THAT GOE IS PLANNING

TO MAKE TO HUSSEIN AND SAUDIS. SAUD WILL BE HAVING TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON MAY 18 AND SHOULD THERE BE EGYPTIAN-SAUDI CONTACT BEFORE THEN WE WOULD APPRECIATE BRIEFING IN TIME FOR THAT MEETING. WHILE WE WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SAUD'S PRESENCE HERE TO HAVE THOROUGH-GOING DISCUSSION WITH HIM ABOUT CURRENT STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND WHAT NEXT STEPS MIGHT BE, WE WILL NOT MENTION FOUR ISRAELI QUESTIONS OR GET INTO SUBSTANCE OF OUR MOST RECENT EXCHANGE WITH SADAT UNLESS WE HEAR FROM EGYPTIANS THIS GROUND WAS ALREADY COVERED IN THEIR OWN CONTACTS WITH SAUDIS.

3. FYI: YOUR REPORT LEAVES US WITH IMPRESSION SADAT SEEMED ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROSPECT OF EXCHANGING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AS POSSIBLE NEW TRACK ON WHICH NEGOTIATIONS COULD MOVE. WE NOTE ALSO IN THIS CONNECTION THAT WHEN SADAT ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT DAYAN WOULD PREFER TO PUT ASIDE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES HE APPARENTLY EXPRESSED NO REPEAT NO DEMURRAL OR RESERVATIONS. THIS TENDS TO JIBE WITH REPORT OF INTERVIEW ANTHONY LEWIS HAD WITH SADAT IN SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 122733

MIT ABUL KOM ON MAY 10, APPEARING NEW YORK TIMES NEXT DAY, WHICH CONTAINED THIS PASSAGE: "IN TODAY'S INTERVIEW, MR. SADAT SEEMED TO PLAY DOWN THE IDEA OF A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. ASKED WHETHER AGREEMENT ON SUCH A DOCUMENT WOULD ALLOW THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL, HE AVOIDED A DIRECT ANSWER, SAYING THAT A BROADER VIEW WAS NEEDED."

4. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENT WHETHER IN YOUR OWN MEETING WITH SADAT YOU SENSED HE IS RETHINKING DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AS IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE. DID YOU GET IMPRESSION THAT TALK HE (OR GAMASY) HAD WITH WEIZMAN AND BARAK, REINFORCED BY OUR REPORT OF DAYAN'S TALKS WITH US AND NOW BY DAYAN'S QUESTIONS, HAS CAUSED HIM TO SEE SOME MERIT IN NEW ISRAELI APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS OF "MOVING FROM THE SPECIFIC TO THE GENERAL?" HAVE YOU ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SADAT HAS CHANGED HIS VIEW ABOUT SCENARIO AND TIMEFRAME DISCUSSED DURING MEETING WITH ATHERTON APRIL 23?

5. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT YOU WILL BE AWAY FOR THREE WEEKS WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF YOU COULD ARRANGE

ONE MORE MEETING WITH SADAT TO ATTEMPT TO DRAW HIM OUT
ON THE ABOVE POINTS. IN DOING SO, WE OF COURSE DO NOT
WANT TO SAY ANYTHING WHICH WOULD DISCOURAGE SADAT FROM TAK-
ING POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD DAYAN IDEAS, IF HE IS SO
INCLINED.
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